

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO

SUBJ: ALMEIDA SANTOS ON ANGOLA

1. AMBASSADOR LUNCHEd WITH GOP MINISTER OF INTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ALMEIDA SANTOS JUNE 4. SUMMARY OF SANTOS' COMMENTS ON ANGOLA FOLLOW:

2. GOP NEUTRALITY: SANTOS PERSONNALLY WON THE GOP INCLUDING THE NATIONAL DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION OVER TO THE POSITION OF "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY" IN ANGOLA FROM A FORMER PRO-MPLA STANCE. SANTOS ARGUED THAT MPLA IS A LOSER AND GOP WOULD BE FOOLISH TO PUT ALL EGGS IN ONE BASKET. FORMER ANGOLAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO ARGUED IN FAVOR OF THE MPLA.

3. WHITE FLIGHT: ALTHOUGH ABOUT 50,000 PEOPLE HAVE BOOKED PASSAGE OUT OF ANGOLA, THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT THE TRUE NUMBER OF FUTURE REFUGEES. 80 PERCENT OF THE BOOKINGS ARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO WANT TO PRESERVE THE EXIT OPTION IN CASE OF SERIOUS TROUBLE; THEIR HUSBANDS PLAN ON REMAINING BEHIND. FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND HAVE ALREADY LEFT AND AROUND 1500 HAVE RETURNED TO PORTUGAL.

4. GOP TROOPS: THERE IS NO CHANCE OF GOP SENDING ADDITIONAL TROOPS BEYOND ALVOR LIMIT TO PRESERVE THE PEACE. EVEN IF GOP WISHED TO DO SO, TROOPS PROBABLY WOULD REFUSE TO GO.

5. CIVIL WAR: REMAINING PERIOD UNTIL NOVEMBER 11 INDEPENDENCE WILL BE MARKED BY PERIODIC CLASHES FOLLOWED BY INTERVALS OF LESSER TENSION. THE NOVEMBER 11 INDEPENDENCE DATE IS "SACRED" AND MARKS THE END OF PORTUGUESE RESPONSIBILITY IN ANGOLA. DESTRUCTION OF MPLA IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME.

6. PGOP-ANGOLA LINK: DESPITE STATEMENTS BY AFM, THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN ANGOLA'S POLITICAL FUTURE AND COURSE OF REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL. THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF THE OVERSEAS PROBLEM AND WISH TO FORGET ABOUT IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. UNITA: SAVIMBI IS THE SMARTEST OF ANGOLAN LEADERSHIP AND WILL PROBABLY EMERGE ON TOP WHEN FNLA-UNITA ALLIANCE
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MOVES AGAINST AND CRUSHES MPLA. SAVIMBI HAS ALREADY BRILLIANTLY OBTAINED THE BACKING OF KUANDA AND NYERERE. UNITA HAS ABOUT 40,000 FOLLOWERS, 2,000 OF WHOM ARE ARMED.

8. MPLA: MPLA IS A LOSER. THE GROUP HAS MORE ARMS (MOSTLY SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV) THAN PEOPLE. MPLA IS BASED PRIMARILY IN LUANDA AND NETO'S CALL FOR "POPULAR POWER" HAS ONLY FURTHER INCREASED WHITE ANXIETY OVER MPLA. A MPLA-UNITA

ALLIANCE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

9. ANGOLAN-ZAIREAN REFUGEES: GOP AND GOZ HAVE AGREED TO RESPECT INDIVIDUAL FREE WILL OF THOSE WHO WANT TO RETURN TO ANGOLA FROM ZAIRE AND VICE-VERSA. GOZ IS CONCERNED WITH EX-KATANGA FIGHTERS AND, DESPITE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION, SHOT EARLY GROUP OF RETURNEES.

10. ZAIRE: MOBUTU LOOKS LIKE WINNER IN ANGOLAN GAME BY OUTFLANKING MPLA, NOW WITHOUT GOP SUPPORT. FNLA-UNITA ALLIANCE WITH BACKING OF NYERERE AND KUANDA CEMENTS VICTORY. SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF ALVES MISSION TO ZAIRE AGREED TO IN ADVANCE BY MOBUTU.

11. ANGOLAN ECONOMY: DIAMANG WILL SOON BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE AND UNEMPLOYMENT WILL RISE DUE TO SATURATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

12. CABINDA: IT IS NATURAL THAT CABINDANS WANT INDEPENDENCE. ANNUAL PER CAPITA REVENUE FROM OIL WITHOUT ANGOLA WOULD BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$US12,000. ZAIRE'S DESIRE TO CONTROL CABINDA AS ANSWER TO ECONOMIC CRISIS FROM FALL IN COPPER MARKET PRICE RUNS COUNTER TO SUPPORT FOR FNLA.

13. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD ON FIRST HAND BASIS FROM HIGH OFFICIAL THAT GOP HAD SUPPORTED MPLA IN ANGOLA. TURNABOUT IN POLICY TO POSITION OF NEUTRALITY WITH ACCEPTANCE OF INEVITABLE CIVIL WAR MARKS POSSIBLE SET-BACK FOR AFM RADICALS AS WELL AS MPLA.

14. SANTOS, A MODERATE, HAS BEEN PREDICTING A UNITA VICTORY IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS SINCE NOV 1974.

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